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N E W S B R I E F S

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Military trucks and equipments were landed in Dili's harbour, by the Indonesian warship 502 in last February, to supply the 32 Indonesian batallions that carried out a military operation in East Timor, on November 4th, last year.
In Baucau there are five Indonesian batallions,713, 411, 512, 413 and 77 .
The civilian population in Baucau, Lospalos,Ainaro and Same, have been suffering strong pressures by the Indonesian troops such as a curfew before 5.p.m. everyday and civilian mobilization for military operations.
In Bukoli-Baucau the Indonesian batallion 328 have already killed 20 Timorese accused of having contacts with FRETILIN guerrillas, when the same batallion was operating in that area in January of this year.

THE INDONESIAN secret service reinforced its activities in Dili-East Timor, since the territory was declared "opened".Most of Indonesian sellers in Dili were instructed by Indonesian authorities, to watch the Timorese, especially when there are foreigners in the country.These sellers (BAKSO) cooperate with the local civilian authorities, the military district command and the police.

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NATIONALIST CONVERGENCE MEETS JOURNALISTS AFTER MOISES DE AMARAL

The Nationalist Convergence (FRETILIN and UDT), held a press conference at hotel Phenix,Lisbon, on March 22nd aimed at mark the 3th aniversary of the formation of NC, its activities, the Portuguese government positions and the present situation in East Timor.

Dr. Paulo Pires, the interim president of UDT Political Commission said in his speech that the NC welcomes the efforts of the Portuguese foreign affairs minister, Dr.Joao de Deus Pinheiro, to sensitize Portugal's partners of EEC in order to defend the right of Timorese people to exercise its right to self-determination. He also stressed that theNC launched a challenge to Indonesia :"to sit in the table with Timorese representatives without previous conditions and 'tabus' ".

Dr. Abilio Araujo, the chief of FRETILIN overseas delegation, said that in international field the NC is an indispensable part to find out a negotiated political solution for East Timor. The recognition of the NC by the Portuguese government, in February, put an end to the period of Portuguese government ambiguity, about its real intentions and purposes concerning a solution to the problem.

Speaking about the present situation in East Timor, Dr. Araujo said that the armed resistance and its military actions against the occupying army are visible, such as the actions that took place in Dili at the end of the year.The Timorese students moves in East Timor are more noticeable showing that they are more determined to fight for their rights and for an education system that values the Timorese national and cultural identity.

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He added,"this day we mark, too, the 6th aniversary of the Preliminary Talks between the Indonesian army supreme command estationed in East Timor, with the president of the Revolutionary Council of the National Resistance, Xanana Gusmao , in Lari Gutu, East Timor,held on March 21st and 23rd, 1983".

EAST TIMOR AND THE FOREIGN VISITS

Pope John Paul II is to visit Indonesia in next October but only with the condition of visiting East Timor.The visit to Indonesia has been so eagered by Indonesian government, moreover because of the question of East Timor than a religious visit, knowing that 90% of Indonesian population are Moslem.With the visit of the Pope to Indonesia it would be a good opportunity for Indonesia to persuade the Vatican to chance its positions concerning the question of East Timor, and to integrate the East Timor diocese to Jakarta as they have been tried for many years.One of the weapon to convince the Vatican is the growing number of Catholics in East Timor.Indonesian troops "converted" all the Timorese animists and pagans in the occupied areas into the five monotheist religions considered official by Indonesian goverment. Those Timorese who refuse to be "converted" are accused by Indonesian authorities of communists and violating the five philosophical principles of the State.Thus the number of Timorese Catholics increased marvellously compared to the number during the Portuguese ruling.

"The Pope would praise Indonesia if he knew what we are doing for the Catholic Church in East Timor"said the then Indonesian foreign affairs minister,Mr.Mochtar Kusumatmaja, at the time the Pope received the credentials of the new Indonesian ambassador to Vatican in 1987(EXPRESSO Dec.

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Dec.19th,1987) and called Indonesia to respect the human rights in East Timor.

According to the Portuguese daily newspaper "DIA - RIO DE NOTICIAS"(April 2nd,1989)Pope John Paul II is going to Dili,East Timor and such as it happe - ned in Chile, he reserves the right to receive who ever he intends without any limitations,as one of the conditions.Vatican obliged Jakarta to include Dili in his visit as another condition to visit In donesia.

With already 13 years of experience of guiding and staging visits of selected politicians and journa- lists in East Timor,Indonesia will certaily use all its experience to manipulate the Pope's visit. This visit is merely resumed as part of Indonesia campaign for the recognition of the annexation of East Timor into Indonesia Republic, by the interna tional community.

A Portuguese parliamentary delegation is expected to visit East Timor in next July.The delegation will present to the Indonesian authorities some conditions for the visit.The conditions, among ot- hers, include the unlimited time to stay in East Timor, freedom of movement and meetings, the en - trance in the territory without Indonesian visa and to meet the guerrillas in East Timor.

If these conditions are met, such a visit will not be a success for the Indonesian government diplo- matic campaign for the recognition of the annexa - tion of East Timor by the international community. Indonesia is taking high risk.Inside the territory FRETILIN is growing stronger than ever;the resis - tance against the occupation is not only in the mountains by armed struggle but also in the occupied areas.The people is more conscious of the national unity and independence, and the"pacific" resistance is also growing.

As usual, before, during, and after the visits,more Timorese are arrested and tortured, more prisons , desappearances and arbitrary executions will take place ...